

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 908

To authorize appropriations for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2000 for the provision of grants for construction of wastewater treatment works to serve United States colonias and for connecting residents to sewer collection systems and making any necessary plumbing improvements to enable residences to meet existing county or city code requirements.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 1995

Mr. DE LA GARZA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To authorize appropriations for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2000 for the provision of grants for construction of wastewater treatment works to serve United States colonias and for connecting residents to sewer collection systems and making any necessary plumbing improvements to enable residences to meet existing county or city code requirements.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to protect the economy,  
3 public health, environment, surface water, ground water,  
4 and water quality in the United States colonias areas,  
5 which are endangered and are being polluted by raw or  
6 partially treated sewage, in furtherance of the goals of the  
7 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

8 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES COLONIA.**

9 As used in this Act, the term “United States  
10 colonia”—

11 (1) means any identifiable community that—

12 (A) is in the State of Arizona, California,  
13 New Mexico, or Texas;

14 (B) is in the area of the United States  
15 within 100 kilometers of the border between the  
16 United States and Mexico;

17 (C) is determined to be a colonia on the  
18 basis of objective criteria, including lack of po-  
19 table water supply or lack of adequate sewage  
20 systems;

21 (D) is in an unincorporated area; and

22 (E) was in existence before January 1,  
23 1990; and

24 (2) includes a community within a standard  
25 metropolitan statistical area that has a population

1 exceeding 1,000,000, but does not include the entire  
2 standard metropolitan statistical area.

3 **SEC. 3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO UNITED STATES**  
4 **COLONIAS.**

5 The Administrator of the Environmental Protection  
6 Agency is authorized to make grants to any State of the  
7 United States along the United States-Mexico border, or  
8 to any entity designated by the Administrator, for the con-  
9 struction of treatment works to serve United States  
10 colonias or for connecting United States colonia residents  
11 to sewer collection systems and making any necessary  
12 plumbing improvements to enable United States colonia  
13 residences to meet existing county or city code require-  
14 ments.

15 **SEC. 4. APPROVAL OF PLANS.**

16 Any wastewater treatment works to serve United  
17 States colonias for which grants are made under this Act  
18 shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by  
19 the State under appropriate standards required by the Ad-  
20 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The  
21 plans shall include construction cost estimates and identify  
22 responsible parties and the appropriate allocation of costs  
23 associated with operating and maintaining the treatment  
24 works.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal  
4 years 1996 through 2000.

